

# CAREER FOCUS

## ‘Whole-person’ concept:

*More than just volunteering*

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Bluesuiters have long heard the phrase “whole person concept” but what does it really mean? What’s the bottom line? Have we mumbled this mantra so often that somehow we’ve lost focus of the underlying philosophy?

We all know how important it is to show a willingness to be team players, to play a role in advancing the goals of charitable groups and activities and to promote personal and professional growth and development through any number of educational programs and venues.

Additionally, most of us realize how critical this subject can become when it comes time for annual evaluations or an award submission. It often appears as yet one more box to be checked off in a predetermined formula for success.

And while it undoubtedly plays a role in shaping an individual’s future (via recognition and advancement), it plays an even larger role in shaping the world in which we live.

It’s more than just volunteering time and effort. It’s about giving back to the community, both on and off base. It’s about contributing to the betterment of those who are in need, those who lack the resources to act in their own best interests or perhaps those who simply aren’t as blessed as we might be.

It’s about giving guidance and leadership where it is most desperately needed—it’s about altruism in its purest form.

For the professional in today’s Air Force, the opportunities to get involved are limited only by the imagination. Youth programs, church activities, sports, education, mentorship programs, Junior ROTC, scouting, Red Cross, Special Olym-



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pics, hospitals, community out-reach, Habitat for Humanity, veterans assistance, Big Brothers and Sisters, food banks, Civil Air Patrol, adopt a trail or highway, unit programs... the list is endless. There’s something here for everyone.

With our busy schedules, where do you find the time to give back? You *make* time! Think about it...we’ve already won life’s lottery by being able to proudly call ourselves Americans. We can say thanks—and make a big difference—by giving back just a few hours.

Want more information on ways you can help out in our community? Ask your supervisor, first sergeant or commander or give me a call at 846-6636 to get involved today!

## Global Address List update service added

The Kirtland AFB C4 Team has added a Global Address List Update Service as a link on the Kirtland Extranet home page for all base e-mail users.

This is a self-service that is being offered as the result of a push from the Air Force to get and keep directory information accurate.

The Global Address List is the e-mail address directory that you see when the Microsoft Outlook client e-mail address book is opened. This directory is viewable throughout the Air Force.

This new Global Address List Update Service allows the end user to change personal information such as rank, organization, office symbol and telephone number. As these entries are changed the application properly formats the display name (what you see in the Global Address List) and enters it into the list.

The selected directory information fields can be changed by the end user either by drop-down pick lists or

pre-formatted data which helps keep the Global Address List information consistent. When the Global Address List is updated, it takes several hours to replicate across Kirtland AFB and can take up to five days to replicate across the Air Force.

To facilitate this, the Kirtland AFB C4 Team has worked with the NetIQ Corporation and has developed a Web page interface that uses the domain and resource administrator tool to accomplish this task.

This is the same management tool many of your units’ workgroup managers use to delegate domain management throughout the wing and many of the associate units on Kirtland AFB.

One of the immediate benefits gained is the removal of the “man in the middle.” Users can maintain and keep their own personal information up to date and not have to wait for their workgroup manager to accomplish the change.

## Community College of the Air Force, Virtual Education center team up

The Community College of the Air Force and the Air Force Virtual Education Center have teamed to help military members build on their education by using the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

The AFVEC is the Air Force’s premier site for providing in-

formation about education benefits, including selected Community College of the Air Force information.

Students may log on to AFVEC, <https://afvec.langley.af.mil>, from a .mil domain only, to create an account and to access their on-line CCAF academic records and customer service tools.



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# FORUM

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## New rules for loose pets in housing

I live in Family housing and there is a rule that I wasn't aware of: If a dog gets out of the yard, and runs around the community and the owners aren't home and the security forces are called to pick up the dog, they take him to the Animal Control Center.

Why is it that the owner will get arrested and have that on his or her military record?

Is there any way that they can put the animal in confinement, instead of driving the animal downtown? If the animal gets out can they have the owner fix the fence or get a new one. I would hate to see someone's military career ruined by an animal.

Thank you for contacting the "Forum" with your concerns regarding how we handle stray animal offenses.

Our primary focus in dealing with animals wandering loose on base is the health and safety of the base populace. With this in mind, the 377th Security Forces Squadron has revised their internal procedures to focus on violations involving vicious or rabid animals.

Violations of this type may result in the owner being charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. We will handle other animal control violations without apprehending the owner, unless circumstances warrant.

Some of these "circumstances" might include instances when the owner doesn't show any improvement in pet control. When this happens, the UCMJ becomes an alternative that a commander may choose to use in bringing about that change.

Our security forces team is also drafting a change to Kirtland AFB Instruction 31-205, Control of Animals, to clarify this guidance.

## Housing allowance puts E-3 over assistance level

I am an E-3 on active duty here at Kirtland AFB with 20 months time in service. My husband is a full time student and stay-at-home dad.

We have two children and live in base housing. Needless to say cash is a little tight for us right now.

I went to the New Mexico Department of Human Services to apply for financial assistance. The caseworker I was assigned to approved my case for \$275 a month in grocery assistance according to my base pay income of \$1356.90 a month. Needless to say, a huge burden was lifted from my shoulders.

The caseworker called me back later that afternoon to tell me that my case was actually denied by her



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supervisor. Her supervisor stated that my monthly income was actually \$2348.71 and was \$354 above the income level for assistance for a household of four.

We questioned her figure and she said they go off of a persons "net pay" which would include my Basic Allowance for Subsistence (\$242.81) and Basic Allowance for Housing (\$749). She then went on to tell me that the military makes provisions for "their people" so we don't have to live in poverty.

I would qualify for assistance if Kirtland AFB hadn't gone to housing privatization and began putting BAH on everyone's Leave and Earnings Statement. My income without BAH is \$1599, which is \$395 under the state limit for a household of four of \$1994.

My family needs financial assistance and the Air Force "Service Assistance" the Family Support offers has the same criteria as the state and adds BAH as well. Family Support says we need to re-budget and cut back but my take home pay every two weeks is approximately \$570 and there is no where I can "cut back."

So, am I penalized because I'm stationed at Kirtland AFB because of housing privatization?

What is my family suppose to do during this hardship? I know we're not the only family in the military that needs financial assistance.

Family support said that people who were receiving Service Assistance prior to housing privatization were taken off after it was implemented. Now these families in need have no where to turn for financial assistance.

Although we certainly understand your concerns, there is no additional financial assistance we can offer. Several months ago, our finance experts researched this exact issue. Previous attempts at adjusting the rules to allow junior enlisted to continue to qualify for government-subsidized financial programs once housing is privatized have not been successful.

By privatizing housing and now including your Basic Allowance for Housing in all pay checks, we have put those living on base on exactly the same footing as their counterparts living off base.

Those living off base never qualified for public assistance, while those living on base did qualify before housing privatization. As you know, public assistance programs on and off base adhere to strict guidelines, requiring that all income be considered.

DoD policy continues to support congressional action to bring our salaries and entitlements in line with our counterparts in the private sector. In fact, as a result of the fiscal year 2004 BAH increase, all but 3.5 percent of average rent and utility costs are now covered.

Even more promising, by 2005, all out-of-pocket housing expenses should be eliminated through further BAH increases. At the same time, our housing privatization program ensures superb quality housing is available to our military members.

We at Kirtland AFB are fortunate to be one of the first bases to have housing privatization.

## Why Commissary still poorly stocked?

We patronize the Commissary at least twice a week and in recent months we have found the store to be poorly stocked—empty shelves or the non-availability of some grocery items that were on the shelves a week prior.

Around June 2003, in responding to a similar problem, the commissary blamed the shortage and the nonavailability of many grocery items on a supplier that was at that time going through bankruptcy. Is this still the problem today?

I doubt it. It is strongly suspected that the shortage or non-availability of merchandise on the shelves is attributable to an increase in demand for commissary goods caused by allowing unauthorized people (relatives, friends and neighbors) of identification card bearers to enter the commissary and shop.

While this policy may increase the Commissary's "customer base," it not only fosters further erosion of "military benefits" but also gives a new meaning to the word "privilege."

It seems prudent to suggest that if the Commissary is experiencing a problem in the procurement of merchandise that some measures would be implemented to ensure that uniformed services members would have some form of shopping priority for whatever merchandise is supplied to the commissary.

Ms. Janet Lawrence, acting store director, has taken immediate action to ensure the shelves are full. She is overseeing the close review of all orders and consumption data and making daily adjustments to improve performance in all departments.

In addition, Commissary employees are stocking shelves during the day to supplement evening stocking. As you mentioned, we did indeed have a severe product shortage during the summer months, due to a major distributor filing for bankruptcy protection. Since then, though, our new distributor has picked up most of the slack.

DoD regulations do permit authorized patrons to bring guests into the Commissary. However, while authorized patrons and their guests are in the Commissary, the authorized shopper is responsible for the actions of their guest. As you know, the guest may not make Commissary purchases. Likewise, the authorized patron may not make purchases for their guest.

If a cashier observes an obvious exchange of money between the guest and the identification card holder, they will remind the identification card holder that Commissary shopping is an earned benefit reserved for authorized shoppers and will not complete the transaction.

Your Kirtland AFB Commissary team is dedicated to preserving this most valued benefit—one that you and thousands of others who use our Commissary have certainly earned. Shopping at the Commissary is a benefit worth protecting.

Please continue taking advantage of your Commissary benefit and the 30 percent plus savings. If you need assistance or have concerns in the future, please feel free to contact Ms. Lawrence or any member of her management staff at 846-4902.

## Forum

We want your suggestions and comments concerning Kirtland AFB.

However, may we also suggest giving base agencies or the chain of command the chance to resolve your concern before calling Forum.

If you decide the Forum is the right answer, we don't print callers' names.

## Customer service

Chapel, 846-5691  
CE Help Desk, 846-8222  
Commissary, 846-9586  
Computer help, 846-5926  
Energy wasting, 846-4633  
Exchange Service, 266-9887  
Family Services, 846-0741  
Finance, 846-8045, 846-6639  
Law Enforcement, 846-7926  
Legal Services, 846-4217  
Medical Clinic, 846-3406  
Services Squadron, 846-1828

Write: 377 ABW/CC Forum  
2000 Wyoming SE  
Kirtland AFB, NM 87117